

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 24, 27, 30 and 33. Please amend claim 26 as shown below. Claims 2, 7, 10, 13, 25, 26, 28, 31, 29, 32, 34 and 35 are pending in this application, and are the subject of the present examination.

1. cancelled
2. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:3;
 - b) a polypeptide that is at least 95% identical to a polypeptide of a)-d),wherein the polypeptide binds a cell expressing IL-1 zeta receptor; and,
 - c) a fragment of the polypeptide of a)-or b), wherein the fragment binds a cell expressing IL-1 zeta receptor, and further wherein the fragment comprises amino acid 51 through 188 of SEQ ID NO:3.

3 through 5 cancelled.

6. cancelled.

7. (original) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 2.

8. cancelled.

9. cancelled.

10. (previously presented) An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 7.

11. cancelled.

12. cancelled.

13. (original) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 10 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.

14 through 23 cancelled.

24. cancelled.
25. (previously presented) The polynucleotide of claim 2, which encodes a variant polypeptide as a result of alternate mRNA splicing, wherein the variant polypeptide comprises amino acids 51 through 192 of SEQ ID NO:3.
26. (currently amended) A An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids x through y of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein x is an integer between 1 and 50, inclusive, and y is an integer between 188 and 192, inclusive.
27. cancelled.
28. (previously presented) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 25.
29. (previously presented) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 26.
30. cancelled.
31. (previously presented) An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 28.
32. (previously presented) An isolated host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of claim 29.
33. cancelled.
34. (previously presented) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 31 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.
35. (previously presented) A method for preparing a polypeptide, the method comprising culturing a host cell of claim 32 under conditions promoting expression of the polypeptide.